

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03293

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: RH, KE
SUBJECT: OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL'S VIEWS
ON ZIMBABWE

1. DURING A COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG AUGUST 23,
AMBASSADOR NOUREDDINE DJOUDI, OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY
GENERAL, COMMENTED ON THE SITUATION IN KENYA AND AT
GREATER LENGTH ON RHODESIA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S QUERY CONCERNING
THE FUTURE IN KENYA, DJOUDI SAID THAT HE THOUGHT
KENYATTA HAD SET UP A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD ENSURE
CONTINUITY OF POLICY. A KEY FIGURE IN SUCCESSION
POLITICS WOULD BE ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARLES NJONJO.
NJONJO'S MAIN POLITICAL WEAKNESS IS THAT HE IS TOO
CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH WHITES.

3. ON RHODESIA DJOUDI SAID HE HAD MET WITH JOSHUA NKOMO
TWO WEEKS AGO AND HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE
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ANGLO/AMERICAN PLAN HAD BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS.
EFFORTS WERE UNDERWAY TO SECURE GREATER ZANU/ZAPU
COOPERATION. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS NO LONGER TERRIBLY
KEEN ON HAVING AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE. NKOMO SEEMED
MORE INTERESTED IN HAVING DIRECT DEALINGS WITH THE
BRITISH. HE WOULD NOT SEEK BRITISH TROOPS, BUT IN VIEW
OF THE GROWING WEAKNESS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT HE

HOPES THAT THE BRITISH WOULD MOVE DIRECTLY AND DECISIVELY TO REACH A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

4. NKOMO, HE SAID, WAS NOT OPPOSED TO ELECTIONS, PROVIDED CERTAIN GUARANTEES WERE MET. HE WOULD NOT AGREE TO HAVING THE PRESENT RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES REMAIN INTACT DURING A TRANSITION PERIOD.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA WAS DETERIORATING WITHOUT CONCURRENT DEVELOPMENT ON UNITY WITHIN THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. A DANGER WAS THAT ULTIMATELY A PATRIOTIC FRONT VICTORY WOULD EVOLVE INTO INTERNAL FIGHTING BETWEEN ZAPU AND ZANU. IT WAS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT ALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGOTIATION AND A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER WITHOUT A TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STRUCTURE SHOULD BE SEIZED. DJOUDI AGREED BUT SAID THAT THE WHITE RHODESIANS WERE INCREASING THEIR PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL EFFORTS EXTERNALLY. THIS PROVOKED INCREASED ACTIVITY BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. HE AGREED THAT SOMETHING MUST BE DONE QUICKLY. WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, CHANCES FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT UNDER WHICH WHITES COULD STAY IN ZIMBABWE WOULD DIMINISH.

6. DEVELOPMENTS WHICH REDUCED TENSION BETWEEN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA WILL HAVE AN IMPACT IN ACCELERATING EVENTS IN
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RHODESIA. SO WOULD SUCCESS IN HOLDING FAIR ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA. IT REMAINS A QUESTION WHETHER SWAPO WOULD BE ABLE TO CAMPAIGN NORMALLY.

7. DJOUDI STRESSED THAT UNLESS THERE WOULD BE A QUICK MOVE BY THE BRITISH AND/OR THE AMERICANS, THE ANGLO/AMERICAN PLAN FOR RHODESIA WOULD SOON BE TOTALLY IRRELEVANT. THE OAU'S POSITION IS THAT OF INCREASING THE ARMED STRUGGLE IF WHITE RHODESIANS CONTINUE TO REFUSE NEGOTIATION. SMITH'S SITUATION IS WEAKENING RAPIDLY. IN CONCLUSION, HE COMMENTED THAT THIS WAS NOT A TIME TO RELAX THE BOYCOTT ON RHODESIA. IT WOULD ENCOURAGE MORE VIOLENT OPPOSITION BY WHITE RHODESIANS. DJOUDI EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EVEN AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES, WHITE SETTLERS MIGHT CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT ARMED RESISTANCE PERHAPS BY JOINING WITH DISORGANIZED UNITS OF THE PRESENT WHITE MILITARY FORCE. YOUNG

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